

**REMARKS**

This patent application presently includes claims 2-6, 8, and 11-19, of which claims 2-6 and 8 stand rejected, and the remaining claims are newly added. Claims 6 and 8 are amended, claims 11-14 are introduced to more clearly present originally presented aspects of the invention, claims 15-18 are presented to claim further aspects of the invention.

Claims 1-10 were rejected as anticipated by Hoory et al. US Patent No. 6,785,649. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Hoory does not teach or suggest the present invention.

In the claims as presently amended, claims 11-14 are substituted for original claims 1, 7, 9, and 10.

Claims 8, and 11-14 all include the feature that a characteristic of a speaker is determined based on using voiceprint information and that the characteristic is used to control processing of character data obtained from the conversion of the speech information. This feature is disclosed in the application at page 34, line 25 through page 35, line 2. All Hoory teaches is that the emotions of a speaker be used to affect the appearance of text derived from the speech. There is not the slightest suggestion that voiceprint information could be used or that it would be of any benefit. Thus, claims 11-14 are believed to distinguish patentably over Hoory and should be allowed. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 11 and are believed to be allowable based upon their dependence from an allowable claim.

Claim 6 was also rejected as anticipated by Hoory. In accordance with this claim, certain characteristics of character data, such as text, are derived, the character data is converted to speech information, and the character data or the speech information is subjected to predetermined processing based upon the characteristics. The processing may be dependent upon the meaning of particular portions, or it may include adding, modifying or appending a word or controlling the processing of the last word depending upon the derived characteristic. Neither Hoory nor any of the other references of record even suggest derivation of such characteristics of character data or using it to control processing of the data.

Accordingly, this claim is believed to distinguish patentably over the art of record and should be allowed.

New claim 15 is addressed to using certain characteristics of the speaker to process character data obtained from converting speech information. The characteristics include a face image of the speaker (third and seventh embodiments), a blood pressure measurement or a heart rate measurement of the speaker (fourth and seventh embodiments), the current position of the speaker (fifth and seventh embodiments), and a characteristic provided as an input by the speaker. Horry discloses using only nonverbal characteristics of speech, and Abe and Holm disclose using only prosodic information (e.g. rhythm and intonation) from speech. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of any of these features. This claim should be allowed.

Claims 16 and 17 relate to the eighth and ninth embodiments, in which signal processing methods are used in which the speech signal is derived from speech in the form of sign-language. There is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record that processing should be done with respect to anything but a conventional speech signal. Accordingly, claims 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable.

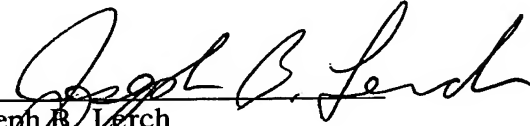
New claims 18 and 19 relate to a method for information transmission. Only character data is transmitted over a network while permitting full reproduction of voice data. This is disclosed in Figure and page 39, line 8 through page 41, line 21 of the application. This is a particularly bandwidth efficient way to transmit voice information and is not taught or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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